

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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The End of Fear

By Charles H. Spurgeon
1834-1892

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not."—Luke 2:10.

No sooner did the angel of the Lord appear to the shepherds, and the glory of the Lord shine round about them, than they were sore afraid. It had come to this, that man was afraid of his God, and when God sent down His loving messengers with tidings of great joy, men were filled with as much fright as though the angel of death had appeared with uplifted sword. The silence of night and its dreary gloom caused no fear in the shepherd's hearts, but the joyful herald of the skies, robed in mildest glories of grace, made them sore afraid.

We must not condemn the shepherds on this account as though they were peculiarly timid or ignorant, for they were only acting as every other person in that age would have done under the same circumstances. Not because they were simple shepherds were they amazed with fear, but it is probable that if they had been well-instructed prophets they would have displayed the same feeling; for there are many instances recorded in Scripture in which the foremost men of their time trembled and felt a horror of great darkness when special manifestations of God were vouchsafed to them. It became the settled conviction of all men, whether wise or simple, whether good or bad, that a manifestation of God was not so much to be rejoiced in as to be dreaded; even as Jacob said, "How dreadful is this place! it is none other but the house of God." Men spake of the God of Israel with bated breath, and with voices hushed and solemn. They had not learned to say, "Our Father, which art in heaven." They had not received the spirit of adoption, and were not able to say Abba. They smarted under the spirit of bondage, which made them sore afraid when by any peculiar glory the Lord displayed His presence among them.

Sin Brings Fear

At the bottom of all this slavish dread lay sin. We never find Adam afraid of God, nor of any manifestation of deity while he was in Paradise an obedient creature, but no sooner had he touched the fatal fruit than he found that he was naked, and hid himself. When

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Charles H. Spurgeon

A Christmas Gift In Prison

Some years ago, while conducting a series of meetings in Michigan City, I was asked to preach to the convicts in the State Prison. I sat on the platform with the governor and watched the prisoners march in—700 men, young and old. They marched in lock-step, every man's hand on the shoulder of the man before him. At the word of command they sat down. Among that number were seventy-six "lifers," men who had been committed to prison for life for murder.

After the singing I arose to preach, but could hardly speak for weeping. Disregarding all the rules of the prison, in my earnestness to help the poor, fallen men, I left the platform and walked down the aisle among them, taking one and then another by the hand and praying for him. At the end of the row of men who were committed for murder sat a man who more than his fellows seemed marked by sin's blighting curse. His face was seamed and rigid with scars and marks of vice and

sin. He looked as though he might be a demon incarnate if once aroused to anger. I placed my hand upon his shoulder and wept and prayed with and for him.

When the service was over, the governor said to me, "Well, Kain, do you know you have broken the rules of the prison by leaving the platform?"

"Yes, Governor, but I never can keep any rule while preaching. And I did want to get up close to the poor despairing fellows, and pray for them, and tell them of the love of Jesus, the Saviour. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. This man [Jesus] receiveth sinners, and eateth with them." (Luke 19:10; 15:2).

"Do you remember," said the governor, "the man at the end of the line in the lifer's row, whom you prayed with? Would you like to hear his history?"

"Yes," I answered gladly.

"Well, here it is in brief: Tom Galson was sent here about eight years ago for the crime of murder. He was, without doubt, one of the most desperate and vicious characters we had ever received, and as was expected, gave us a great deal of trouble.

"One Christmas eve, about six years ago, duty compelled me to spend the night at the prison in stead of at home, as I had anticipated. Early in the morning, while it was yet dark, I left the prison for my home, my pockets full of presents for my little girl. It was a bitter cold morning, and I buttoned my overcoat up to protect myself from the cutting wind that swept in from the lake. As I hurried along, I thought I saw somebody skulking in the shadow of the prison wall. I stopped and looked a little more closely, and then I saw a little girl, wretchedly clothed in a thin dress; her bare feet thrust into a pair of shoes much the worse for wear. In her hand she held, tightly clasped, a small paper parcel.

Wondering who she was and why she was out so early in the

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"Immanuel—God With Us"

By Dr. John R. Rice

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."—Isa. 7:14.

Here is a Christmas Scripture, a verse in the Old Testament that speaks about the birth of the Baby Jesus, God's own Son, who was born of a virgin mother, lived among men, died for our sins on the cross, and arose again and ascended into Heaven. The Prophet Isaiah, nearly 750 years before the Saviour was born, wrote by divine inspiration, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

This verse was later quoted by the angel of God, speaking to Joseph, the promised husband of Mary. The record is given us in Matthew 1:23. So we know that this verse, written by the prophet of God long beforetime, tells of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The virgin birth is a sign, we are told. The preceding verse says that it is a sign given to the "house of David." Of course it was

not addressed simply to Ahaz, but to the whole house of David. So Mary, who was of the lineage of David, and Joseph her promised husband, who was also descended from Israel's greatest king, were doubtless familiar with this Old Testament verse. And so each of them found it easy to believe the prophecy of God that the dear Lord Jesus was to be born without a human father, born of a virgin mother.

The New Testament quotation of this verse gives the interpretation of the word Immanuel. Matthew 1:23 tells us, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Immanuel (spelled Emmanuël in the New Testament) means "God with us." What a wonderful thought for Christmas! The dear Lord Jesus is called "God with us."

I. The Virgin Birth Essential to Christ's Deity

How like the characteristic straightforward way of the Bible, to tell us first that a virgin should conceive and bear a son and then tell us that this virgin-born Son, without a human father, should be called Immanuel, "God with us."

us." Here the Bible simply expresses an obvious fact: the deity of Christ depends upon His virgin birth. Jesus Christ was not born as other people are: He is not the son of a human father. Rather, He was miraculously conceived in the womb of a virgin. The Spirit of God Himself miraculously caused the conception of the Lord Jesus.

All who understand the simplest, plainest doctrines in the Bible will understand why the Saviour must be born of a virgin. Men are tainted with sin. The whole race is fallen since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. Every child ever born comes into this world with the curse of sin upon him. Every child is born but to die. And if Jesus were to be without the taint of sin, He needed to be conceived and born in a way different from the usual course of mankind. He was conceived and born of a virgin. Jesus had no human father!

Wicked men who did not want to honor Jesus as the Christ of God, who were not willing to bow to Him as their Lord and Saviour, have falsely stated that the Hebrew word for virgin, in Isaiah 7:14, did not necessarily mean virgin, but only a young woman, whether married or single. But that statement is as unscholarly as it is malicious. The word here used for virgin, the Hebrew word *almah*, is used six other times in the Old Testament. I have just read the six other verses in the Bible which use this word, and even a casual reader would be convinced that the meaning is as translated in Isaiah 7:14, a virgin. One case is that of Miriam, the sister who watched the baby Moses in the bulrushes and went and called his mother for the princess who found him. Another is of Rebekah before she was married.

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Plodding through the desert, wise men from afar;
Not a soul to guide them, nothing but a star;
Many folk to mock them for their silly care;
"What are stars to follow through the empty air?"

Plodding through the desert, seeking for a king,
Fools of common legend, fancies all a-wing;
There are mighty monarchs in the Eastern lands;
Why pursue another, toiling o'er the sands?

Plodding through the desert, scorning gain and ease,
What is this you carry in your treasures?
What of royal favour do you hope to gain
With your precious presents and your plodding pain?

Gold is fit donation for a mighty throne,
But the myrrh and incense, who would care to own?
Myrrh—a stern reminder man is for the sod;
Incense, for the worship of a holy God.

Plodding through the desert with this royal gold,
Know you not of Herod, jealous, crafty, bold?
Herod holds the sceptre in a mighty town.
His a cruel temper; he will strike you down.

Plodding through the desert, those sagacious men,
Glimpsing king and kingdom past our mortal ken.
Glory, glory, glory, hid from common eyes;
"Mid the mob of mockers, they alone were wise."

—Amos R. Wells.

What Each One Did

In a rude stable cold,
The friendly beasts their stories told:
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"Carried His mother up hill and down,
Carried her safely to Bethlehem town."
"I," said the cow all white and red,
"Gave Him my manger for His bed,
Gave Him my hay to pillow His head."
"I," said the sheep, with the curly horn,
"Gave Him wool for His blanket warm;
He wore my coat on Christmas Morn."
"I," said the camel, all yellow and black,
"Over the desert, upon my back,
Brought Him a gift in the Wise Man's pack."
"I," said the dove, "from my rafter high,
Cooed Him to sleep, that He should not cry,
We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I."
And every beast, by some good spell
In the stable darkness, was able to tell
Of the gift he gave to Emmanuel.

—Robert Davis

The Battle of Armageddon

By Dr. Lee Roberson
Pastor, Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Chapter 9 of Some Golden Daybreak

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."—Rev. 16:16.

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army."—Rev. 19:19.

In the last message we discussed the portion of Scripture found in Revelation 19, verses 11 to 16. This pictures the coming of Christ upon a white horse. A vivid description is given of our Saviour as He comes in power and glory. Back of Him are His armies. They also ride upon white horses, and are clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

The purpose of the coming of Christ is given in verse 15, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." Christ is coming to make war, to smite the nations with a sword, and to rule with a rod of iron. In order to do these things, it is necessary that He tread the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God.

Consider three things in this message.

I. The Battle of Armageddon

First, what is the battle of Armageddon? As we find in Revelation 19:19, it is a battle between the Antichrist and the kings of the earth and their armies against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army.

At the close of the tribulation period, the Antichrist and his false prophet, with the armies of the earth, will besiege the Jewish remnant in Jerusalem. The coming of Christ will alarm the world powers, and they will fall back to Armageddon, the ancient hill and valley of Megiddo, west of Jordan, in the plain of Jezreel.

The battle of Armageddon will be the last world war. The little uprising to be instigated by Satan after the thousand years, cannot be called a world war. This will be the last one.

The battle of Armageddon is truly a direct warfare of Hell against Heaven, for you remember that Satan gave his power unto the Antichrist and the false prophet, and now we find that the beast and the prophet are doing the foolish thing of trying to fight against Heaven itself. We need to remember that the puny arm of flesh can never fight against God and win. Man is slow to learn this, and in spite of defeat after defeat, he continues to war against God.

We have already mentioned

where this battle will be fought. It will be in the valley of Megiddo, southeast of Mt. Carmel, in the land of Palestine.

When will this battle be fought? It will come at the close of the tribulation period, and will climax that awful time of judgment.

This battle is referred to in a number of Old Testament passages, but I want you to hear this one in Joel 3:9-14:

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

The battle of Armageddon is also a further fulfillment of the promise which God gave in Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

These words were spoken by the Lord to the serpent, old Satan. Here is the promise that Satan's head will be bruised, and all he can do is bruise His heel. When a person's heel is bruised, it causes pain but does not bring about death. But when you bruise the head, you destroy a person.

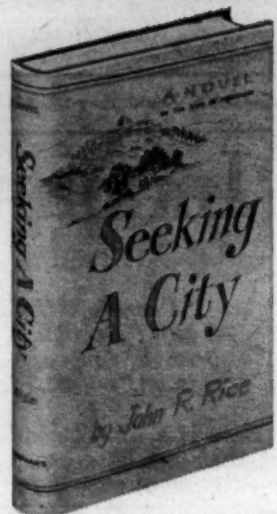
Someone has said that the great purpose of the battle of Armageddon will be to attempt to annihilate Christ. Satan has always wanted the rulership of this earth, but it has been promised unto the Son of God. But the Devil has attempted on many occasions to do away with Christ.

His first attempt was made through Herod, who had all the children up to two years of age slain in an effort to kill the Christ

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There are thousands of people who ought to receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD who cannot subscribe for themselves or perhaps will not do so until they get acquainted with the paper. Before me is a list of 150 missionaries who ought to have THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Among the happiest letters we ever receive about THE SWORD are those from missionaries, thanking God that in the darkness of a far-off land where they do not hear others preach, where libraries are not available, they can have the great preaching, Bible teaching, inspiration, and help in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. There are thousands of ministers who ought to receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Some ministers in foreign countries are not allowed to send money to the United States. There are shut-ins who need THE SWORD OF THE LORD and want it. We get letters continually from people who cannot pay for THE SWORD but who wish to have it. There are ministerial students whose life-long ministries would be transformed by regular reading of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. We ask you to prayerfully

consider in Jesus' name giving generously to the Sword Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund.

If you send the names and addresses of those for whom you subscribe, and if the subscriptions are sent in Jesus' name, and to get out the Gospel, not for personal reasons, you might properly use tithe and offering money to do it. But we cannot send a receipt for the money as a gift if you pay for subscriptions and send the names. However, if you send a gift to the M & M Fund, without sending the names, we will be glad to send a receipt and of course you may deduct a gift from taxable income, according to the government regulations. The Sword is a nonprofit religious institution, recognized by the Federal Government. You are allowed to deduct as high as 30% of your income if it be given to recognized religious causes.

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We have a great burden to get out the Gospel and to stir revival fires, to inspire Christians to win souls, to defend the faith from the inroads of cults and modernism. There will be tremendous rewards in Heaven for those who stand true and give sacrificially to help get out the Gospel and thus to bless the hearts of thousands and keep them true to Christ and the Bible. Will you send a gift to the Sword of the Lord Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund?

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Incidents and Illustrations

By

Evangelist Robert L. Sumner

Contributing Editor

It Pays to Serve Jesus

The other morning I went out on visitation with a local business man who has a real estate and insurance office. He neglected his own business to put the Lord first during the revival and attended every one of our daily morning visitation hours. In between visits he confided to me, "You know, I thought that I was going to make a real sacrifice by going out on visitation every day and letting my business slide, but the Lord has been more than making it up to me."

He said, "Just this morning I received a letter from some people who own a house here but live in California, telling me they wanted to take out seven-and-a-half thousand dollars worth of insurance on their house, and were giving me the business. I got that without even soliciting it. Last night I took the papers over to a couple who had bought a house from me and told them that they could go right ahead with their original insurance, that it was not necessary to take out insurance from me. They said that was very nice and I thought that ended it, but this morning the telephone rang and the man who had bought the house was on the other end of the line to tell me they had thought it over and decided they wanted to give me the business, letting me handle their insurance."

Several things like that happened during the meeting and he found that Jesus said what He meant and meant what He said in Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

A Cigarette Idol

A young man who led the singing for me in a revival in Los Angeles several years ago told me how he happened to quit smoking. He said that during an invitation, when people were getting right with God, he found himself wishing the pastor would stop the in-

itation and pronounce the benediction so he could get out for a smoke. With tremendous conviction the realization of his sinful desire pressed itself upon his heart and he was faced with the truth that *he was more concerned about the temporary satisfaction a cigarette could give him than the eternal salvation of an immortal soul!* Immediately, standing right there at his pew, he resolved to forsake such a terrible sin. He tore that idol from his heart and exalted Christ in His rightful place. Remember, anything that comes between you and your Saviour is an idol. One of the Ten Commandments is, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exod. 20:3).

"GAMBLING IS AN EXPRESS TRAIN TO RUIN."

Social Security Monster

Nearly eighteen years ago a Miss Ida Fuller of Ludlow, Vermont, received social security check 00-000-001 for \$22.54. The exact date was January 31, 1940. On June 8, 1957, the 9,999,999th successor, to Miss Fuller, Mrs. Jane Gavin of Ozone Park, New York, a thirty-six year old widow with two children, received her first \$200.00 monthly check from the Social Security Administration. During the time it took the system to reach a total of 10,000,000 beneficiaries, Miss Fuller received a total of 210 checks and her monthly benefit had been raised to \$51.50. The Social Security Administration is currently handing out \$6,480,000,000 a year to these 10,000,000 beneficiaries. Adding about \$125,000,000 expenses for maintaining the bureau one year, the total administration expenditure is approximately \$6,505,000,000 a year.

As an illustration of how the payments are made, California's Los Angeles County has 340,000 beneficiaries receiving a total of \$18,358,338 every month. The mon-

ey goes to 209,600 retired workers (both men and women) who receive \$12,937,200; to 48,800 wives over 62 years of age who receive \$1,639,000; to 42,500 children under eighteen who receive \$1,801,000; to 30,500 aged widows and widowers who receive \$1,500,000; to 8,900 widows with minor children who receive \$443,750; and to 700 dependent parents of deceased workers who receive \$36,100. The average monthly payment for retired workers is \$61.72, while the average for all kinds of payments is \$53.55.

When the Social Security system was first inaugurated we were told that the income would always exceed—or at least equal—the expenditure. That the outgo is rapidly overtaking and will soon exceed the income, is seen by the fact that during the fiscal year of 1949-50 the administration paid benefits totaling only approximately 33 per cent of what it received, but by the 1955-56 fiscal year it paid out 79 per cent. Estimates for the current fiscal year are that the benefits paid out will be about 85 per cent of the total income. Studied opinion is that surely by 1965, just 25 years after the first check was issued, the entire Social Security program will have to be put on a pay-as-you-go basis with the whole income-earning population taxed to support the old, the widowed, the disabled, and the orphans. An editorial in the *Los Angeles Times* caustically commented: "The taxpayer's consolation, as his burden perpetually increases, may be that his successors will have to pay it for him—if he survives."

The Value of a Soul

When I was in a revival some time back in an Ohio city God was dealing in a tremendous way with the hearts of a Sunday morning congregation. The hour was getting late—as a matter of fact, I do not recall ever keeping a Sunday morning congregation longer than I did that one—but people kept coming to get right with God and I did not feel I could cut it short. At the close of each verse we sang I would say, "The next verse will be the last unless someone comes." Then on the next verse one more person would come forward.

After several such verses a young girl about ten years of age stepped out to come and receive Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour. Up to that point everyone had been coming about matters in the Christian life, so I commented on that fact and remarked how wonderful it was the invitation had been prolonged since it resulted in the salvation of a soul which was worth more than the world and all the fulness thereof.

Since the girl had come to trust Christ I announced again that the next verse would be the last unless someone else came. From way in the back of the church, one of the ushers—who was also the chairman of the board of deacons, I believe—came forward in tears to acknowledge that he had been standing in the rear wishing that the invitation would be cut off so he could go home. With trembling lips and tear-stained face he said, "That was my only daughter who just came forward to trust Christ!"

Think of it! A man wishing the invitation would be cut off so that he could go home to dinner and fill his stomach, but if it had been cut off his only daughter would not have been saved. I tell you, sometimes we put strange emphasis upon unimportant things and neglect essentials! Someone's getting right with God is far more important than dinner, or Sunday papers, or television, or visiting relatives, or anything else. Let's stop "playing church" and get down to business with a genuine concern for souls!

"Not how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself!"—Laymen's Motto

Evangelist Sumner can be seen and heard:
Dec. 29 thru Jan. 12
Calvary Baptist Church
727 Mentor Avenue
Painesville, Ohio
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Immanuel Baptist Church
Arcanum, Ohio

THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

You will be getting this issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, we trust, about Christmas time, and so, as editor, I send you my heartfelt good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the dear Lord seem very near this Christmas time! And may the kindness of God who gave His Son for us make your heart happy in Him. God bless all SWORD OF THE LORD readers in this holiday season in which we remember the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Our Advertisers—You Can Help Them and Us

In 1957 we have had a healthy increase in the amount of paid advertising in THE SWORD OF THE LORD and in advertising income. First, we are grateful to God. Without advertising it would be impossible to maintain THE SWORD OF THE LORD at the ridiculously low prices we charge for this big weekly Christian paper.

We owe thanks also to Miss Fairy Shappard, advertising manager, who has been with the SWORD OF THE LORD about twenty years, and to that splendid Christian gentleman, Bill MacLeod, her assistant, and to office helpers.

But we are deeply grateful also to the Christian institutions—the schools, the publishing houses, and other Christian enterprises—who have advertised in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. We owe to them a genuine debt of gratitude. We want them to be prospered and blessed. We want them to be a help to every reader who needs their services or products.

You can help our advertisers and thus help us. They have spent honest money in presenting their services and goods through THE SWORD OF THE LORD. They deserve the attention of readers. If they find that advertising in THE SWORD OF THE LORD gets the attention and consideration of multitudes of interested people, they will find the advertising profitable and will continue that. So you can do us a genuine favor by reading the ads and writing the advertisers for further information whenever they have something that interests you. If you find yourself at all interested in what is offered in the advertising columns, will you please write, ask for catalogs, make further inquiry, or order things that you need? And be sure to say that you saw the advertisement in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Thank you, friends, for helping in this matter. It is not a hard thing for a good Christian to do, and it will help tremendously.

Help Needed in Sword Free Literature Fund

We recently sent \$2,700 to Dr. Fred Jarvis for use in Japan. Part of this money is to help in a small evangelistic fund, to pay incidental expenses of pastors who donate their time for mission revival campaigns in Japan. Some of it is to help make up the deficit in a Japanese edition of THE SWORD OF THE LORD published monthly and doing great good. Eventually we trust this Japanese edition of THE SWORD OF THE LORD will pay its way. At present it needs our help month by month.

Part of the fund is to be used for a new printing of about a million copies of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in Japanese. Already we have furnished the means to publish three and a half million copies of this soul-winning booklet in Japanese. Thousands have found Christ through its ministry, as many missionaries testify. We do not have enough money yet to pay for another million copies. Perhaps you will want to help.

Mr. Gmo. V. Saint-Clair, of Chile, South America, recently asked for 1,000 copies of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in Spanish. That amounted to about \$30 plus postage to far-off South America.

Rev. Clyde Kendall asked for 2,000 copies of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in English for use in Florida. They were sent to him, and he signed the usual pledge that they should be given only to those who agree to read them.

In Kenya, Africa, Rev. K. N. Phillips of the Africa Inland Mission asked for 500 copies of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and they were sent.

From Weslaco, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, Rev. Andrew Foster, a missionary to migrant Mexican workers, asked for 500 of the "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" booklets in Spanish, and they were sent. Requests like that come day after day, and we are continually sending out literature from our Sword Free Literature Fund. Money is seriously needed for publication of a great edition of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in Indonesia.

All the money sent for the Sword Free Literature Fund will be very carefully used and receipts will be sent for your gift. This missionary enterprise is worth your prayerful consideration.

The Editor's Engagements

December 29 to January 1, I will be speaking with Dr. Victor Sears at the Twin City Baptist Temple, Mishawaka, Indiana.

January 19 to 26 THE SWORD OF THE LORD will promote a large-scale conference on revival and soul winning at the Miller Road Baptist Church, Garland, Texas. Speakers will include Dr. Bob

(Continued on page 4)

IS DEATH THE ANSWER?

"Please forgive me," begins a letter from a young girl in Greece, "for writing this letter. It is my long illness and desperate condition that force me to do it. I have been sick since 1953 and God only knows when or whether I shall get out of here. I lost my parents when I was still a little girl. They died of hunger during the Second World War. After the war, I went to work as a maid servant, but my mistress was very cruel to me. Because I was too young and weak to do all she expected from me, she beat me hard and treated me badly, until one day I came down with a high fever. After a few days she took me to a doctor and was told that I had tuberculosis. When we came home she locked me in a room until she could prepare papers for my admission to a sanitarium. Since then she has never come to see me, never sent me a letter.

"I feel so very sad and lonely. I feel as if the whole world has forsaken me. Many times I sink into despair and feel that death would be the best solution for me—but is that right? My dear Christian friends, if there is anything you can do for a lonely, sick and broken-hearted girl, please answer me soon. Yours respectfully, CORINA KANTARCL"

Is that right, that death would be the best solution for Corina? Surely we as Christians cannot give her that answer. Out of love of Christ and love of our neighbor, we ought to open our hearts and hands to this poor girl and let her know that in the mercy of God she is not forsaken. She needs medicine, nourishing food, warm clothing, and a Bible to bring her to the One who is the Friend of the weak and helpless. Whatever you do for Corina and others like her, you will be doing as unto Him. You may help her through the American Mission to Greeks, Inc., Rev. Spiros Zodiates, General Secretary, Dept. SL, P. O. Box 423, New York 36, N. Y. (In Canada: 90 Duplex Ave., Toronto 7, Ont.)

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Dr. Bob Jones SAYS:



The wise man does not only prepare for the inevitable; but, if possible, he prepares for that which is possible. When the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom, they were all ready if he had come immediately; but only five of them were ready for the delayed coming of the bridegroom. We tell our students in Bob Jones University to watch for the coming of the Lord but to prepare themselves the best they possibly can to live Christian lives in this world and occupy until the Lord comes if His coming should be delayed. That kind of emphasis is the constant practical Christian emphasis of this institution. The young people who go out from Bob Jones University believe the Bible, and most of them have a passion for souls and are practical in their Christian approach. There is a great need in our modern world for practical, everyday, common sense, Christian leadership. I have never seen a graduate of Bob Jones University that could not get a position. We cannot train enough preachers, school teachers, and people in other walks of life to meet the demand for the type of young folks who go out from

this University which God led me to found.

Now, we are appealing to you Christian people to help us. Pray for us and pray earnestly and pray daily. We are living in a time when the temptation is to compromise. We are not going to compromise. If you know young people who can be trained for the type of Christian leaders we are training in Bob Jones University, we would appreciate your recommending Bob Jones University to them. Please invest some of the money the Lord has given you in the work of the institution. Any money that you send that is not especially earmarked will be divided three ways. One-third will be set aside as a missionary fund, as we are trying to get the Gospel to the ends of the earth. One-third will be put into the Student Loan Endowment Fund to help students who are not able to pay all of their expenses through school, and one-third will be put into our maintenance fund. Please let us hear from you. Thank you and God bless you.

BOB JONES, FOUNDER
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY
GREENVILLE, S. C.

(Advertisement)

WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

(NOTE: We are happy to publish honest reports of blessed revivals from trustworthy evangelists and churches. However, if you send us your report for publication, PLEASE give exact statistics, as far as possible, concerning conversions, rededications additions, etc., or we may not print it. We especially appreciate reports from pastors and chairmen of union campaigns.)

November 4-10 **EVANGELIST JACK VAN IMPE** (14 Gage Street, Pontiac 16, Michigan) held meetings at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Chico, California. Rev. E. L. Rodda, the pastor, reports 9 first-time decisions, 22 restorations, and 50 rededications. He is invited back to this church in 1959.

Recently **EVANGELIST JOE MILLER** (Maple Ave., Camp Hill, Pennsylvania) has held campaigns at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, at the Beech Run Brethren Church (10 converts); at Evangelical Congregation Church in Reading, Pennsylvania (9 converts). He reports that both meetings were affected by the flu.

EVANGELIST HUGH PYLE (1721 S. Gordon St. S. W., Atlanta, Georgia) reports on his meeting November 7-17 at First Brethren Church, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, where Rev. R. Paul Miller, Jr. is pastor: "25 souls made public profession of faith; 44 public rededications. Many stood to claim the fullness of the Spirit. A number of young people took a public stand against sin in a pledge to separated Christian living."

"We have just closed Sunday night, November 17, a wonderful revival with **EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD** (4521 Jarboe, Kansas City, Missouri) doing the preaching," writes Rev. G. E. Caskey, Millington Street Baptist Church of Winfield, Kansas. He continues: "God moved in a mighty way. There was much conviction and confessing of sin. Some 12 folk were gloriously saved, at least 15 wonderful rededications. One lady 70 years of age was saved on the first Saturday night."



WINNING IS JUST THE BEGINNING

A new Christ-honoring concept of Christian service for both men and women assures successful follow-up with new converts. "Follow-Up Made Easy," exciting companion to "Soul-Winning Is Easy," by C. S. Lovett, makes it possible for you to take another through the entire Bible in 20 minutes. 2 1/2 ft. Bible Panorama picture included. \$1.00-postpaid-guaranteed. **CHRISTIAN SUPPLY**, Baldwin Park, California.

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George W. Noble, The Christian Co., Dept. 5W, Pontiac Bldg., Chicago 5, Ill.

Also a Sunday School teacher was saved who had made a profession for some 14 years. Brother Del has not changed in his hard preaching against sin and for holy living for the Lord. Once again I thrilled as I worked with him.... He will do his utmost under God to stir hearts for revival and soul winning. He was able to get folk to work who had been idle for the Lord for a long time. I am thankful that we didn't have just another meeting, but experienced revival in our hearts and souls."

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST J. OSCAR WELLS** of Box 417, Bethany, Oklahoma, recently conducted a revival campaign with the First Baptist Church of Osawatomie, Kansas. The Rev. Robert R. Wheatley is pastor. In a letter to Dr. Bill Rice, Staff Director, Pastor Wheatley writes:

"We have recently concluded a very successful revival crusade with Evangelist J. Oscar Wells. How we thank God for this man. Truly it was a revival. Here are the results: 19 conversions, 4 transfer of letter, 26 rededications...."

Other pastors and churches desiring the services of this fine evangelist may write either to him or to Dr. Bill for further information and dates.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST KEN CHAPMAN** recently conducted a revival campaign with the First Christian Union of Newark, Ohio. The Rev. Harold Doyle, an old Moody classmate of Chapman, is pastor.

In spite of the serious flu epidemic, the revival was blessed of God with 7 conversions, 4 rededications, and a very real strengthening of the church. Evangelist Chapman is available for a limited number of revivals each season. For information and dates you may write directly to him in care of this paper or to Dr. Bill Rice, Director.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST PAUL FERGUSON** has just conducted a fine revival campaign with the Midland Park Baptist Church of Naval Base, South Carolina. The Rev. Charles H. Betty is pastor of this church. In a letter to Dr. Bill Rice, Staff Director, Pastor Betty says:

"We have just closed a wonderful two weeks of revival with

Noteworthy NEWS-Notes



Dr. A. D. Helser

On October 9, the General Council of the Sudan Interior Mission announced the appointment of Rev. A. D. Helser, Ph.D., as the new General Director, the third in the 64-year history of the Mission. Appointment was made upon the retirement from office of Rev. G. W. Playfair, who served as General Director from 1944 to 1957. Mr. Playfair will assume the office of Director General Emeritus of the Mission.

Dr. and Mrs. Helser went to Nigeria, West Africa, in 1922. He is the author of 12 books. In 1953 they took up the circulation work of the S.I.M.'s magazine, *The African Challenge*, and the circulation increased from 40,000 in 1953 to 185,000 by the end of 1957.

Dr. Helser is a graduate of Columbia University. Sidney Robert Correll, medical missionary in French West Africa, was fatally burned in an explosion on the mission field October 15. Dr. Correll was the son of Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Correll, Sr., of Christian Tabernacle, Dayton, Ohio.

A new series of Bible and science adventure films produced by Moody Bible Institute's film division, Moody Institute of Science, is now being released to television stations.

The Bible stories which will be alternated with the science adventures in this series use a picture book technique developed at MIS. The narrator, Mr. Fixit, tells the story from the Bible and illustrates it with animation-like photography from a picture book. The science adventures with Uncle Bob take place in a lab where the neighborhood youngsters find the answers to their questions about the world around them—and the God who made them.

This 13-program series of films will be offered to TV stations on a sustaining basis as the "Sermons from Science" films were.

Evangelist Paul Ferguson. In spite of the flu epidemic... the Lord blessed in that there were 20 professions of faith as homes and hospitals were visited and as the Word of God was preached with great power and persuasion by Brother Ferguson.

"In addition to this, we had about 8 rededications of life to the Lord.... There was an unusual burden for prayer throughout the entire meetings. I heartily recommend Brother Ferguson as an earnest man of prayer, one who works hard for souls, and one who fearlessly preaches the whole counsel of God—yet in a spirit of love and compassion."

"There were 12 saved and three more for rededications and church membership in our meeting with **REV. GARTH SIBERT**," writes Rev. Wesley Potter of Fowler Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, Illinois. Mr. Sibert is pastor of Horace Baptist Church, Chrisman, Illinois, and has conducted several successful evangelistic campaigns in the Danville area.

Rev. George Schultz, Jr. reports 5 professions of faith and 4 additions to the church by letter in a recent revival held at First Baptist Church in Shiner, Texas, where Rev. Charles Russell is the pastor.

Pastor F. W. McKnight of Calvary Baptist Church, Estherville, Iowa, reports a good revival held by **EVANGELIST ED NELSON** of 954 Quari Ct., Aurora, Colorado. There were 24 who confessed Christ. Six have already been baptized, more yet to follow. There were many rededications. Bill Renstrom of Boone, Colorado, was songleader.



Evangelist and Mrs. Wilfrid Meloon are leaving the pastorate in Maine to re-enter full-time revival work. He is a graduate of Providence Barrington Bible College; is fundamental, premillennial, the author of the article and pamphlet, *Hey, Young People, They Say I'm Crazy*. Mrs. Meloon helps in a bright musical program. Address: 189 North Street, Lakeport, New Hampshire.

Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 3)

Jones, Sr., Dr. Bill Rice, Dr. Beauchamp Vick of the great Temple Baptist Church, Pastor Jack Hyles, and others. Rooms will be provided for ministers. Attendance is expected from a number of states. Services will be held in the large new auditorium seating 2,200. This is one of the great churches of the world which baptized last year over 700 converts and a similar number this year. This conference should be a life-transforming experience for many. Thousands will get new inspiration and help on how to win souls, how to build a great Sunday School, how to be filled with the Holy Spirit, how to get one's prayers answered.

Ministers wishing a free bed provided should write to Pastor Jack Hyles, Miller Road Baptist Church, 2022—15th Street, Garland, Texas. Please say exactly when you will arrive, who will be with you, and how long you expect to stay.

Another High-Grade Typist Needed: Permanent Job at Sword

We are happy to have two new workers who recently joined the Sword staff in Wheaton. We will need in January another high-grade typist for work in the editorial department. College training or good typing experience would be valuable. Must meet high standards, both of work and character. No part-time worker or temporary worker considered. Should be in favor of the strong fundamental stand of the Sword of the Lord and give self to the Lord as if for full-time foreign mission work. If you are a really good typist, a dedicated Christian, willing to offer yourself to God and the Sword of the Lord for full-time Christian work at some sacrifice, we want to hear from you. Fine Christian atmosphere, sweet fellowship, reasonable salary, great opportunity to get out the Gospel. Address the editor, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

Please don't forget. We are counting on you for help in this subscription campaign. If you believe what we believe and stand for Christ and the Bible as we do, now is a good time to show it.

Unanswered yet? Faith cannot be unanswered, Her feet were firmly planted on the Rock; Amid the wildest storms she stands undaunted, Nor quails before the loudest thundershock. She knows Omnipotence has heard her prayer, And cries, "It shall be done" sometime, somewhere.

—Browning.

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That New Novel

Seeking a City

By Jim Culberson, Circulation Manager

No doubt there is no Old Testament character in whom so vast a number of people find interest and blessing and spiritual stimulation as they find in the life of Abraham. *Seeking a City* centers around the life of this Bible character who is, himself, interesting.

This novel is not merely a descriptive and moving story of something that doesn't matter anyway; it is not dull and needless rambling on some greatly important subject. But it is a descriptive and moving and pedagogical story of the most interesting of all Old Testament characters, Abraham, in whom God promised that 'all nations of the earth shall be blessed.' Skill of pen and keenness of intellect gained through years of experience as writer, lecturer, teacher, and evangelist is here concentrated upon the life of this "friend of God," Abraham.

How much do you know about Abraham anyway? Have you wondered how much spiritual enlightenment Abraham had in his day, lacking the revelation we now have in the Bible? Did you ever pause to think that Abraham, that long-bearded father of the Jewish nation, was once just a young man who could fall in love with a beautiful girl, perhaps in much the same way and for much the same reasons that many men do today? Can you picture Abraham sitting with his grandfather Shem, listening to stories of how the world was just after the great flood?

Seeking a City takes up the story of Abraham before he left Ur of the Chaldees. As the story opens, Abram is protesting to Nezzar, his companion, who is wanting to visit the ziggurat, the Tower of Babel, where sacrifices were made in the worship of the sun. Abram objects to this "new-fangled" idolatry, which forsakes worship of the true God. To this objection Nezzar answers that Abram just doesn't keep up with modern ways. Times have changed since the flood. All the important and most influential people in Ur and throughout the Euphrates valley, the best-informed and the most cultured, worship at the ziggurat. Abram, you'll just have to learn to keep up with modern ways! "Modernism"—2,000 years B.C.?

As you read through these pages you find yourself living Abraham's life—traveling with him through desert and wilderness, on camel and on foot, sharing with him his most unique experiences as "the friend of God," feeling his heart's longing to know the true God, knowing his concern for Sarai when she was taken to Pharaoh's court while Abram was away tending his herds, learning his lessons of complete obedience to the will of God in 'getting out from his land and kindred.' You are amazed at his faith, even as he raises the dagger to kill Isaac, that God will in some way preserve or raise him, in order to fulfill His promise that Abraham's seed would be 'as the sand of the seashore.'

What a miracle God had wrought in restoring to Abraham and Sarah their youth. Sarah had discarded her cane, wrinkles had gone from her face; Abraham had again taken over supervision of his herds and had gone strenuous journeys with renewed vigor as he had many years before. All this God had brought about—God had restored their youth so that Isaac could be born. Now, would God in mockery end this? How must Abraham have felt as he now prepared to destroy what seemed to be the purpose for these miracles, the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promise.

But this book is more than a colorful, scriptural portrayal of the life of Abraham. It gives the significance of God's dealings with him, the meanings of the events involved, what God was teaching Abraham about the Saviour who was yet to come and about the City of God for which he longed.

Profound biblical truth is illustrated in novel form. Even readers who are most "allergic" to novels as a class will find interesting and informative and profitable reading in *Seeking a City*.

Yours Free With Six Subscriptions for \$10

This novel can be yours free. It will enrich your life; it will give you a new appreciation of the life and times of Abraham and a new understanding of many scriptural truths. All who have any interest in the life of Abraham, of his place of significance in God's redemptive plan, should read this novel.

Six subscriptions at the regular price of \$2.50 (\$3 Canadian and foreign) would cost \$15;

Seeking a City will sell in bookstores everywhere for \$3; thus this regular \$18 offer is yours for \$10, saving you \$8.

Should you take advantage of this special opportunity to send subscriptions to your friends, to widen your service for the Lord by helping us to reach others through THE SWORD OF THE LORD? Thousands of good people send gift subscriptions to secular magazines, to provide news reading that is profitable and informative for their friends. Is it not more important that we see to it that our families and our friends, especially our unsaved friends, have available to them the spiritual wisdom and counsel of great men of God of present and past whose sermons are featured each week in THE SWORD OF THE LORD? I feel this to be true and already I've filled in a coupon like the one on this page, listing six persons I would like to have receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD each week.

A handy order coupon is provided. *Seeking a City* is yours free with six subscriptions for \$10. Let us send you this novel right away. Just fill in the coupon below and mail to: THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois.

COUPON

Save \$8

Dr. John R. Rice, Editor
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Wheaton, Illinois

I, for one, want to take advantage of your special offer of 6 one-year subscriptions for \$10, (instead of \$15.00) and get free the \$3 Christian novel, *Seeking a City*. Please send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to those indicated below (plus 50c extra for each Canadian and foreign subscription).

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(Other names may be included on a separate piece of paper if more room is needed or, if you do not want to cut your copy of THE SWORD, the entire list may be written on separate paper. It will receive the same attention as this coupon!)



"Hunting for
Something?"
READ THE ADS
EACH WEEK

A Christmas Gift in Prison

(Continued from page 1)

morning, and yet too weary to be interested, I hurried on. But I soon heard that I was being followed. I stopped, and turned round, and there before me stood the same wretched looking child.

"What do you want?" I asked sharply.

"Are you the governor of the prison, sir?"

"Yes. Who are you, and why are you not at home?"

"Please, sir, I have no home; mamma died in the poorhouse two weeks ago, and she told me just before she died that papa (that Tom Galson) was in prison; and she thought maybe he would like to see his little girl now that mamma is dead. Please, can't you let me see my papa? Today is Christmas, and I want to give him a present."

"No," I replied gruffly, 'you will have to wait until visitors' day,' and started on. I had not gone many steps when I felt a pull at my coat, and a pleading voice said, 'Please, don't go.' I stopped once more, and looked into the pinched, beseeching face before me. Great tears were in her eyes, while her little chin quivered with emotion.

"Mister," she said, 'if your little girl was me, and your little girl's mamma had died in the poorhouse, and her papa was in the prison, and she had no place to go and no one to love her, don't you think she would like to see her papa? If it was Christmas, and your little girl came to see me, if I was governor of the prison, and asked me to please let her see her papa to give him a Christmas present, don't you—don't you think I would say yes?'

"By this time a great lump was in my throat, and my eyes were swimming in tears. I answered, 'Yes, my little girl, I think you would, and you shall see your papa,' and taking her hand, I hurried back to the prison, thinking of my own fair-haired little girl at home. Arriving in my office, I bade her come near the warm stove, while I sent a guard to bring No. 37 from his cell. As soon as he came into the office and saw the little girl, his face clouded with an angry frown, and in a gruff, savage tone he snapped out:

"Nellie, what are you doing here; what do you want? Go back to your mother."

"Please, Papa," sobbed the little girl, 'Mamma's dead. She died two weeks ago in the poorhouse, and before she died she told me to take care of little Jimmie, 'cause you loved him so; and told me to tell you she loved you too—but Papa,'—and her voice broke in sobs and tears—'Jimmie died, too, last week, and now I am alone, Papa, and today's Christmas, Papa, and—and I thought maybe as you loved Jimmie, you would like a little Christmas present from him.'

"Here she unrolled the little bundle she held in her hand, until she came to a little package of tissue paper, from which she took out a little fair curl, and put it in her father's hand, saying as she did so: 'I cut it from dear little Jimmie's head, Papa, just afore they buried him.'

"No. 37 by this time was sobbing like a child, and so was I. Stooping down, 37 picked up the little girl, pressed her convulsively to his breast, while his great frame shook with suppressed emotion.

"The scene was too sacred for me to look upon, so I softly opened the door and left them alone. In about an hour I returned. No. 37 sat near the stove, with his little daughter on his knee. He looked at me sheepishly for a moment, and then said, 'Governor, I haven't any money.' Then, suddenly stripping off his prison jacket, he said, 'For God's sake don't let my little girl go out this bitter cold day with that thin dress. Let me give her this coat. I'll work early and late; I'll do anything. I'll be a man. Please, Governor, let me cover her with this coat.' Tears were streaming down the face of the hardened man.

"No, Galson," I said, 'keep your coat; your little girl shall not suffer. I'll take her to my home and see what my wife can do for her.'

"God bless you," sobbed Galson.

"I took the girl to my home. She remained with us a number of years, and became a true Christian by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Book shows a man's need and God's remedy (Rom. 3:9-24; John 3:1-16).

"Tom Galson also became a Christian, and then he gave us no more trouble" (Luke 8:35). 'A year ago,' concluded the speaker, 'when I visited the prison again, the governor said to me, 'Kain, would you like to see Tom Galson, whose story I told you a few years ago?'

"Yes, I would," I answered.

The governor took me down a quiet street, and stopping at a neat home, knocked at the door. The door was opened by a cheerful young woman, who greeted the governor with the utmost cordiality.

We went in, and then the governor introduced me to Nellie and her father, who, because of his reformation, had received pardon, and was now living an upright Christian life with his daughter, whose little Christmas gift had broken his hard heart. "Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 4:5; 5:6).

—Selected

Running Into Christ's Arms

It was a brave saying of Martin Luther's when he said, "I would run into Christ's arms even if He had a drawn sword in His hand." Now, He has not a drawn sword, but He had His wounds in His hands. Run into His arms, poor sinner. "Oh," you say, "may I come?" How can you ask the question? You are *commanded* to come. The great command of the Gospel is: "Believe on the Lord Jesus." Those who disobey this command disobey God. It is as much a command of God that man should believe on Christ as that we should love our neighbor.

Charles H. Spurgeon

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"Immanuel -- God With Us"

(Continued from page 1)

ried, and the term is used in his prayer by the godly servant who came to find a bride for Isaac. In one such verse, Song of Solomon 6:8, the word is used to differentiate certain serving girls from the concubines and queens of Solomon! The virgins were not concubines, were not queens; that is, they were not married, and they were literally virgins. The other times also the word is well translated simply virgin, or maid, as distinguished from married woman or matron.

But there is an easier way for us to understand the meaning of the term virgin as used here in Isaiah 7:14, and that is to see how the New Testament explains it. Joseph was deeply concerned when he found that Mary, to whom he was engaged, would soon have a child. Had Mary played the harlot? Had she, whom he had so loved and trusted, gone into sin, and was she about to become an unwed mother as the result of her sin? How he loved Mary! Must he renounce her and accuse her before the authorities and have her stoned to death as an adulteress? While these things troubled the poor heart of Joseph, he fell asleep, and the angel of God appeared to him. The story is given in Matthew 1:18-25. Let us read it with reverence and joy:

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

Here again we have the plain, simple statement that "that which is conceived in her [Mary] is of the Holy Ghost." And then we are told that this is simply a fulfillment of the promise in Isaiah 7:14 that a virgin should conceive and bear the Saviour, without a human father.

You see that the deity of Christ hangs upon His virgin birth.

And again in Luke the same question of the virgin birth of Christ comes up. The Angel Gabriel came to Mary and gave her the wonderful promise that she should be the mother of the Saviour. Luke 1:26-38 tells the story:

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee; named Nazareth. To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing

I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."

Mary very properly asked the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"

The angel answered, "The Holy

sionary and propagandist, simply mentions an affirmation which is already included in the avowed purpose of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. But the affirmation is not sincere on the part of many who join the National Council of Churches, and Dr. Jones will forgive us if we must say that we do not believe he is sincere in proposing that single affirmation that Jesus is the Son of God as the one requirement of denominations for joining this super church he proposed. For, in fact, Dr. Jones is already the most active member of the National Council of Churches which he would make into a super church, to take away the independence of other denominations and join these denominations with the infidels and unbelievers already assembled under the name of the National Council of Churches!

Christ Is Born Today

*The hosts of Heaven in joy are singing
"Good-will to men," the glad news bringing,
"Christ is born today."*

*Lone shepherds in a field reclining
Beheld a light around them shining:
"Christ is born today."*

*Raise high your songs, with voices swelling,
The glad news of redemption telling:
"Christ is born today."*

*Angels of light from Heaven are calling,
Your hearts with holiness enthraling:
"Christ is born today."*

—D. E. Marvin

Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

This is the clear prophecy of a miracle. And the angel said, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." And it is only by virtue of this virgin birth, this miraculous conception, unlike the conception of every other child ever born, that Jesus is called in a unique sense, the Son of God. The deity of Christ depends upon His virgin birth.

Christmas time is a time to honor Christ, God's unspeakable Gift to men. Christmas time is a time to praise His name, to glorify Him, to give the dear Lord Jesus the honor which is His due. And no one can give Christ any proper honor who does not admit His virgin birth and, therefore, His deity.

Every believer in the Bible believes the virgin birth. One who does not believe in the virgin birth of Christ has no right to claim to be a Christian. Any so-called Christian leader or preacher or teacher who says that belief in the virgin birth is not essential is trifling with holy matters. Any such statement is a scandalous hypocrisy, an inexcusable evasion of the truth.

One who does not believe in the virgin birth of Christ should simply say, "I am not a Christian. I do not believe the Bible. I do not believe in the deity of Christ. I do not trust in His atoning blood. I am an infidel, a pagan." One who denies the virgin birth and pretends to be a Christian is a deliberate deceiver, using feigned words to accept a salary or to maintain a position of honor or to get some other gain by this false and wicked pretension of Christianity without a supernatural Christ. At Christmas time, it is well for us to remember that we wish all men well but accept no one as a Christian who does not take Jesus Christ for all He claims to be, the virgin-born Son of God.

In the December 4, 1948, Saturday Evening Post, Dr. E. Stanley Jones is quoted as saying that he wants a united world church and that the only condition for membership would be "the mere affirmation . . . the recognition that Christ is the Son of God." Dr. Jones, the famous Methodist mis-

And in that council, Dr. Jones is bosom-friend and fellow-speaker of that infidel in bishop's robes, Dr. Oxnam, who, in an infamous speech, once declared that the God of the Old Testament was "a dirty bully." Dr. Jones, who receives the Methodist infidel so gladly, knows that Oxnam does not pretend to believe that Jesus is the unique Son of God, that He is God come in the flesh. Dr. Jones is also the co-worker of Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, who wrote the sermon, "The Peril of Worshipping Jesus" (The Hope of the World, pages 96 ff). There, Fosdick says that it is wrong to worship Jesus, that Jesus is not divine in any sense except in which others are divine also. That infidel with beautiful language, that messenger of Satan who comes as an angel of light, has been the boon companion of Dr. Jones, who prattles of getting everybody together, who affirms that they believe Jesus is the Son of God! Henry Sloane Coffin, Bishop Francis John McConnell, with Fosdick and Oxnam and many other modernists, call Jesus "Son of God," tongue in cheek, while they deny His virgin birth and His deity!

If any reader is offended by these plain words, then I challenge you that at Christmas time, the honor ought to be given to Jesus Christ and not to compromising preachers, not to pulpit infidels. If the deity of Christ, and His virgin birth which proves it, are offensive to men, then let men be offended, and let Christ still have the honor that belongs to Him as God incarnate! We can have no supernatural Christ without a supernatural birth. We can have no miracle Saviour without a miraculous birth. We cannot have Immanuel, God with us, unless He be born as the unique Son of God would be born. Christmas is only pagan tradition if Christ be not virgin-born, God in human form.

As the lovely Christmas carol sings:

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and Child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild.

All of historic Christianity revolves around the virgin birth of Jesus, the Son of God, born and laid in a manger at Bethlehem,

worshiped by angels and shepherds and wise men,—the Jesus who in later years was crucified on a Roman cross and poured out His blood to pay for our sins. The virgin-born Saviour is Immanuel, God with us, our Saviour and our God.

II. Christ Is Literally "God With Us"

" . . . and shall call his name Immanuel." (Emmanuel in New Testament spelling.) Mary called Jesus "Emmanuel." And in Matthew 1:23, the verse is quoted with its interpretation, "And they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

Immanuel, God with us! What a wonderful descriptive name of the dear Lord Jesus! He is "God with us." I hope that blessed and comforting truth may become a solid foundation on which we may rest forever! I hope that every reader will stop and let the intimate sweetness of this blessed truth move your heart and become a permanent part of your thinking. Jesus is "God with us."

1. Jesus Is Really God

My book, *Is Jesus God?*, which is an answer to infidels in the church and out, was recently advertised in THE SWORD OF THE LORD, and there came a critical letter from a man who said, "Of course, Jesus is not God. Jesus is the Son of God! How silly to write a book on *Is Jesus God?*" But he was as ignorant as he was irascible. Jesus is God, and the Scripture clearly says exactly that again and again.

Let us go back again to that "Gospel in the Old Testament," the book of Isaiah. There in Isaiah 9:6 is another "Christmas Scripture," a prophecy of the birth of Jesus Christ. That verse says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Did you note that this Child who is born to us and this Son who is given to us is called "The mighty God"? Jesus is God!

In Hebrews 1:8 is this startling statement, "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom." Here in Hebrews 1:8 is a quotation from Psalm 45:6. The Old Testament Scripture says, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever." Then Hebrews 1:8 says that is addressed to Jesus Christ the Son! God the Father addressing Jesus the Son says, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever." Yes, Jesus is literally God. So a beautiful name of Christ is Immanuel, literally meaning God with us. Jesus is God.

Does that seem strange to you? Then turn to the Gospel of John. There, in John 1:1, 2, we have the following statement about Jesus who is called "the Word."

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

In verse 14 of the same chapter, the Scripture says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

This Word who was with God and was God, then, was made flesh. Jesus is God, but He is God with us! He is Immanuel!

I do not wonder that Thomas, who had been doubting the resurrection of the Saviour, when convinced by the nailprints and the wound in the side of the Saviour there before him, cried out and said, "My Lord and my God." Jesus is Immanuel, is really God with us.

And the Bible everywhere teaches that Jesus is God. You remember that a rich young ruler came to Jesus and called Him "Good Master," which is similar to "good professor," or "good rabbi." That did not please Jesus, for He is more than a teacher. And so Jesus replied, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God." If Jesus is not God, then He is not good, for He certainly claimed to be God, and He is an imposter and

a deceiver unless He is what He claimed to be, God in human form.

We can have no Immanuel unless Christ is really God, unless Christ really is one with the Father.

2. In Christ, God Is With the Whole Human Race!

Immanuel is "God with us." God with the whole human race. In II Corinthians 5:19, the Scripture says, "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." There is a sense in which Christ is not only God with Christians, but He is God with mankind. There is a sense in which the whole world is reconciled to God. Let us say, rather, that a bridge has been made between God and men, a bridge for the whole race to cross upon, if they will. Let us say that all the sinners who reject Christ and go to Hell were loved of God and sought of God and bought by the sacrifice of Calvary the same as the rest of us who have trusted and received the Saviour.

When God gave His Son, then God identified Himself forever with the human race. Christ, God the Son, even now sits in Heaven beside the Father, on the Father's throne, in a human body! When Christ comes again the second time, men will see the wounds in His hands and in His feet. When Christ was born, then, there is a sense in which God became a man. And God the Father and God the Son are so closely related, so perfectly united in thought and plan and will and work, that God the Father gave Himself when He gave His Son. And God the Father was eternally tied up with the human race when He gave His Son to be born of a virgin and to become Immanuel, "God with us."

I sometimes tell my daughters that they must remember that when they marry a young man, they marry his father and mother and brothers and sisters, too. So when God the Father gave His Son to become a man, God joined Himself to the whole human race. Christ is Immanuel, God with us.

It is beautiful to remember that God made the sun, moon and stars as lights for man on this earth, that God created all the animal kingdom and the vegetable kingdom as realms over which man should have dominion. Of

(Continued on page 8)

The Patience of God

They said of Cranmer that he was more than ready to forgive, for he always returned good for evil. It was a common saying, "Do my Lord of Canterbury an ill turn, and he will be your friend as long as you live." That was fine; but my Lord of Canterbury was nothing in gentleness compared with the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The holy Leighton, also, was of such a gentle spirit that one day when he went out for a walk and came back he could not get into his own house, for it was locked, and his servant had gone away for a day's fishing without leave or notice. All the good man said was, "John, next time you go fishing, please let me know, or at least leave me the key, so that I may open the door." That was all. If men have reached such a degree of patience, much more will you find long-suffering in God!—Charles H. Spurgeon.

Answer to Puzzle Number 49:

XLIX

P	E	T	E	R	S	A	N	D	S
J	N	E	R	O	M	E	N	L	
U	S	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	W
D	O	T	N	L	A	N	D	R	E
E	R	R	S	S	A	C	S	E	L
A	B	Y	S	S	L	E	A	P	L
J	A	S	D	I	V	E	N	T	E
E	R	I	A	D	E	W	W	A	S
S	T	A	R	R	Y	E	K	U	L
U	S	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	I
S	T	A	B	U	R	E	E	D	A
B	L	E	S	S	Y	E	A	R	N

The End of Fear

(Continued from page 1)

he heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, Adam was afraid and hid himself from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. Sin makes miserable cowards of us all. See the man who, once could hold delightful converse with his Maker, now dreading to hear his Maker's voice and skulking in the grove like a felon who knows his guilt and is afraid to meet the officers of justice.

Beloved, in order to remove this dread nightmare of slavish fear from the breast of humanity, where its horrible influence represses all the noble aspirations of the soul, our Lord Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is one of the works of the Devil which He manifested to destroy. Angels came to proclaim the good news of the advent of the incarnate God, and the very first note of their song was a foretaste of the sweet result of His coming to all those who shall receive Him. The angel said, "Fear not," as though the times of fear were over, and the days of hope and joy had arrived.

"Fear not." These words were not meant for those trembling shepherds only, but were intended for you and for me, yea, for all nations to whom the glad tidings shall come. "Fear not." Let God no longer be the object of your slavish dread! Stand not at a distance from Him any more. The Word is made flesh. God has descended to tabernacle among men, that there may be no hedge of fire, no yawning gulf between God and man.

The imagination that God is cruel, harsh, and terrible, adds fuel to the fire of our enmity to Him. Those whom we slavishly dread we cannot love. You could not make your child show forth love to you if his little heart was full of fear. If he dreaded to hear your footsteps and was alarmed at the sound of your voice, he could not love you. You might obey some huge ogre because you were afraid of him, but to love him would be impossible.

It is one of the masterpieces

of Satan to deceive man by presenting to his mind a hateful picture of God. He knows that men cannot love that which terrifies them, and therefore he paints the God of grace as a hard, unforgiving being who will not receive the penitent and have pity upon the sorrowful. God is love! Surely if men had but grace enough to see the beauty of that portrait of God—that miniature sketched with a single line, "God is love!"—they would willingly serve such a God. When the Holy Ghost enables the mind to perceive the character of God, the heart cannot refuse to love Him. Base, fallen, depraved as men are, when they are illuminated from on high so as to judge rightly of God, their hearts melt under the genial beams of divine love, and they love God because He has first loved them. But here is the masterpiece of Satan, that he will not let the understanding perceive the excellence of God's character, and then the heart cannot love that which the understanding does not perceive to be lovable.

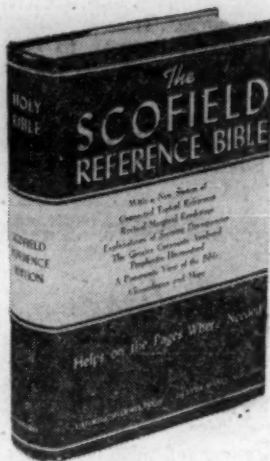
"Fear Not." Why?

They were not to fear, first of all, because the angel had come to bring them good news. How does the text run? It says, "I bring you good tidings of great joy." But what was this gospel? Further on we are told that the gospel was the fact that Christ was born. So, then, it is good news to men that Christ is born, that God has come down and taken manhood into union with Himself. Verily this is glad tidings. He who made the heavens slumbers in a manger. What then? Why then God is not of necessity an enemy to man, because here is God actually taking manhood into alliance with deity. There cannot be permanent, inveterate, rooted enmity between the two natures, or otherwise the divine nature could not have taken the human into hypostatical union with itself. Is there not comfort in that? Thou art a poor, erring, feeble man, and that which makes thee afraid of the Lord is this fear that there is an enmity between God and man; but there need not be such enmity, for thy Maker has actually taken manhood into union with Himself.

Dost thou not see another thought? The Eternal seems to be so far away from us. He is infinite, and we are such little creatures. There appears to be a great gulf fixed between man and God, even on the ground of creaturehood. But observe, He who is God has also become man. We never heard that God took the nature of angels into union with Himself. We may therefore say that between godhead and angelhood, there must be an infinite distance still. But here the Lord has actually taken manhood into union with Himself. There is therefore no longer a great gulf fixed; on the contrary, here is a marvelous union; *godhead has entered into marriage bonds with manhood.*

O my soul, thou dost not stand now like a poor lone orphan wailing across the deep sea after thy Father who has gone far away and cannot hear thee! Thou dost not now sob and sigh like an infant left naked and helpless, its Maker having gone too far away to regard its wants or listen to its cries! No, thy Maker has become like thyself. Is that too strong a word to use? He without whom was not anything made that was made is that same Word who tabernacled among us and was made flesh, made flesh in such a way that He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. O manhood, was there ever such news as this for thee! Poor manhood, thou weak worm of the dust, far lower than the angels, lift up thy head, and be not afraid! Poor manhood, born in weakness, living in toil, covered with sweat, and dying at last to be eaten by the worms, be not thou abashed even in the presence of seraphs, for next to God is man, and not even an archangel can come in between; nay, not next to God—there is scarcely that to be said, for Jesus who is God is man also; Jesus Christ, eternally God,

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was born, and lived and died as we also do.

The first word of the gospel ended all fear, for the angelic evangelist said, "Fear not; behold I bring you good tidings." Henceforth, it is to be no dreadful thing for man to approach his Maker. Redeemed man is not to fear when God unveils the splendor of His majesty, since He appears no more a judge upon His throne of terror, but a Father unbending in sacred familiarity over His own beloved children.

—The End—

The Battle of Armageddon

(Continued from page 2)

child. The second attempt made by Satan was when he took Christ up to the pinnacle of the temple and urged Him to jump off. The third effort was made through the Pharisees who tried to stone Christ to death. The fourth attempt was made by having Christ condemned by the Sanhedrin and crucified. The final attempt is in the battle of Armageddon, and again Satan fails.

II. The Doom of the Beast and False Prophet

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."—Rev. 19:20.

When Christ comes to make war against the beast and his army, there will be no delay in obtaining victory. We are not told how the beast is to be taken, but we do read that Jesus comes with a sharp sword going out of His mouth. This speaks of the Word of God. Therefore, it would seem that Christ will give the order and immediately these two men will be taken and sentenced to their eternal doom.

And now notice, "... these both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." The word "alive" signifies existence in a body. It is not only a state of conscious existence, but life in a body. The Lord spoke of Himself after His resurrection in this way, "I am alive for evermore." The saints who will reign with Christ are identified in this way, "They lived and reigned with Christ."

It is interesting to note that these two, cast alive into Hell, go there before Satan himself. The doom of the Devil is given in Revelation 20:10. And we find that when the Devil is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, the beast and the false prophet are still to be there.

This subject of Hell is one to solemnize all our hearts. The Scriptures indicate that the beast and the false prophet are to be tormented day and night for ever and ever. After a thousand years, there is to be no letup, but a continuation of the same torture.

When men persist in sin, despise the mercies of God, and follow in the steps of Satan, there is nothing left for God to do but to allow them to choose their own place—Hell.

III. The Sad Supper

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God."—Rev. 19:17.

"And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth; and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."—Rev. 19:21.

In the first part of Revelation 19 we saw a glad supper. This was the marriage supper of the Lamb. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."

Here is another supper mentioned in the same chapter. This is the supper of the flesh-eating birds of the earth who come to clear away the carcasses of those who rebel against God and against Christ.

The invitation extended by the angel to the birds that fly in the midst of Heaven is this, "That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great."

The word "flesh" is mentioned five times. The people of the earth who chose to walk after the flesh spiritually must now have their

flesh devoured literally. This is not a very beautiful picture, but it is one that will be fulfilled to the very last word—a literal call will go out to the birds of the air, and a literal feast will be given to them with the flesh of those who fall in the battle of Armageddon. Thousands, perhaps millions, of these birds will come to clear away the flesh of the dead. A number of vultures will doubtless get hold of one body and tear off every bit of flesh. The land must be cleared of the slain carcasses before Jesus begins His reign.

You have your choice as to which supper you will take part in—the marriage supper of the Lamb, or the sad supper of the flesh-eating birds. God grant you will choose wisely and receive Christ as your own personal Saviour. Trust Christ and be present at the marriage supper. Reject Him, and the birds of the air may pluck out your eyes and eat the flesh from your dead body.

(From the book, *SOME GOLDEN DAY-BREAK*, 116 pages, 17 chapters, \$2.00; please add 15c for packing and postage if ordered from the Sword of the Lord, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.)

SAY! HAVE YOU READ THE ADS IN THIS ISSUE?



The Last New Testament!

Recently a newly converted woman visited a small village in Greece. A shepherd sought her out and asked pleadingly, "Please, Miss, would it be at all possible for you to give me a New Testament? I am that shepherd to whom you gave a Gospel tract a year ago. Don't you remember?" He took it from his pocket and showed it to her, worn with time. She felt deeply regretful that she did not have a Testament to give this seeking soul. The poor shepherd was ready to burst into tears. "Please, Miss, won't you give me your own New Testament? I need it so much," he begged. Persuaded that he was deeply in earnest, she gave it to him.

Meanwhile another shepherd joined them and pleaded for a New Testament, too. How her heart ached at the look of sadness in his eyes when she had to refuse him. Only after she promised to mail him a Testament when she returned home did the shadow lift.

On her return she related this incident to our missionary and asked for another New Testament. But there was nothing he could do for that poor shepherd. There was not a single Testament left of his supply.

"My dear brethren," this missionary writes us, "I appeal to you in the name of the Lord Jesus to provide me with the food with which to satisfy the spiritual hunger of our countrymen. Think of poor sinners desperately seeking for Christ's salvation and do what God's love prompts you to do."

What can we add to this except that for \$5.00 you can provide 20 New Testaments or 5 whole Bibles, or a large supply of Gospel tracts and other Christian literature? What if you were the second shepherd? Send your gifts to the American Mission to Greeks, Inc., Rev. Spiros Zodiatis, General Secretary, Dept. SL, P. O. Box 423, New York 36, N. Y. (In Canada 90 Duplex Ave., Toronto 7, Ont.)

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"Immanuel -- God With Us"

(Continued from page 6)

all created beings, man is to God the most precious. But now that Christ is born of a virgin and God the Son has become a man, then the godhead is forever to be occupied with the saving of men and God reveals Himself in human terms. God the Father is "Father" as an accommodation of the term a child uses for his parent. Christ is our high priest, as an adaptation of a human office and a human term. Christ is the head and husband of His church, which is His body, including all the saved. But those are adaptations of human terms. God has the whole human race on His hands, and when God gave His Son to become Immanuel, it meant that God would be forever occupied with saving the human race, and that His delight would be in those of mankind who would trust in His Son. And His eternal companions in the glorious future will be sinners saved by grace! Christ is "Immanuel," God with the whole human race.

III. Christ Is "God With Me"!

But for a born-again child of God, Christ is more than God with the human race. Christ is, for the Christian, literally God with me! I can say like Thomas, when his doubts were dissolved, "My Lord and my God." Jesus is not only God—He is my God. He is not only God with mankind, but He is God with me!

"Christ in you, the hope of glory," says Colossians 1:27. Every Christian has Christ within. That is salvation, to have Christ. And those who have Christ have God the Father, also. In I John 5:12, we are told, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Man is not saved because he is a member of a church, nor because he has followed certain rites and ceremonies, nor because he has committed certain worthy deeds. No! One is a Christian, one has salvation if he has God with him, if Christ Himself is within.

On that awesome night when Jesus talked to the frightened, troubled disciples in the upper room a few hours before His Gethsemane betrayal and arrest and trial and crucifixion, Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23). And again Jesus said, "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you" (John 14:19, 20). You see, the blessed Holy Spirit moves in to the body of a Christian, and so God the Father and God the Son are forever with him.

The Holy Spirit of God constantly abides in the body of every Christian (Rom. 8:9, I Cor. 6:19, 20). So the Christian can really say that he has Immanuel; that is, that God Himself is with the Christian.

And every Christian has the blessed promise of Jesus, "And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." And then beyond the end of this age, we have the promise of eternal joy in His presence! One who has Christ has the Immanuel, has God with him. Christ is really "God with me."

Oh, weak, stumbling Christians, how foolish for us not to see that Christ with us can solve every problem! He is the Creator of the worlds. We are plainly told, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). In Hebrews 1:2, we are plainly told that it was "by his Son," Jesus Christ, "by whom also he made the worlds." How can we fear hunger when the Creator of all the fields of the earth, the One from whose providential and loving hand every living creature in the universe is fed, is with us as our beloved, literally God with us and God within! How can we fear circumstances when the God of all circumstances is "the God of all grace," and He is with us! How can we fear sorrow and

trouble when "the God of all comfort" is with us! Oh, the riches of love in Christ Jesus! Oh, the wealth of every Christian who has Christ! At Christmas time, every one of us might well muse and meditate on the wonderful gift that God gave and say with the inspired apostle, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Cor. 9:15). We have Immanuel! We have God with us!

Joshua had God with him, and so he could command the sun to stand still in the heavens, and it was so. King Hezekiah had God with him, and he could spread

Paul reminded them of the time when they were unsaved, in these words, "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

Any poor man or woman who does not have Christ does not have God. He is in a sad state, being an alien from God's people, a stranger to God's promises, "having no hope, and without God in the world." It is only in Christ that anyone is near to God, for Christ, Immanuel, is "God with us."

Years ago, I pressed upon a girl her duty to take Christ as her Saviour. She was not ready.

Christmas Everywhere

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,
Christmas where snow-peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright,
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and gray,
Christmas where peace, like a dove in its flight,
Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

Then let every heart keep its Christmas within,
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred of sin,
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,
Christ's dread of the darkness, Christ's love of the light,
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

—Phillips Brooks

out the blasphemous letter of Sen-nacherib on the altar of the Lord, and the next morning the angel of God had slain 185,000 enemies besieging the city! The three Hebrew children had one "like the Son of God" to make a fourth in the fiery furnace. They literally had God with them. Christ, Immanuel, made that furnace into a pleasant walk. There was not the smell of fire on their garments, and not a hair of their heads was singed.

If I have needs, God has all the angels at His command and they are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Heb. 1:14). If I have God with me, I have all the angels of Heaven to be my messengers on the wings of light or my protectors with flaming swords! Hallelujah, when I have Immanuel, I have everything!

The morning this was written in the presence of other workers here in the Sword of the Lord office, I somewhat timidly asked God if in two days we could have at hand the necessary \$9,000 for taking the 2 per cent discount on some large printing bills just now due. In the prayer, I told God that there was no probable source from which such an amount would be humanly expected so soon, but that He was the God of the impossible as well as of the probable. Others joined me in the prayer. We wanted another evidence of God's power and we wanted to save \$180 of the Lord's money by getting the cash discount. Within an hour after the prayer, I had in my hands a letter offering \$5,000 immediately to be invested at reasonable interest in just such a matter as we needed to care for. The other \$4,000 is at hand. Thus the money, within two days, will be provided, some of it income through regular sources, and \$5,000 of it through this unusual and unexpected source. I have had perhaps a thousand such answers to definite prayers. One who has God has the wealth of the universe! Christ is Immanuel, God with us. Praise His name! Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

IV. Yet Those Without Christ Are "Without God and Without Hope"

In Ephesians 2:12 is a plaintive and sad word about all who do not know Christ as Saviour. Speaking to the saints at Ephesus,

She told me how good and moral she was. She read the Bible. She prayed every day. She was modest and moral and upright.

"But to whom can you pray?" I asked her. "If you will not take Christ as Saviour, how could you pray?"

"I pray to God the Father," she said, "not to Jesus."

I assured her sadly that God the Father would never hear the prayer of one who rejected His Son. One who is "without Christ" is also without God in the world. There is no redemption, no salvation, no hope for any poor sinner in the world outside of Jesus Christ!

One who will not have Christ cannot have the Holy Spirit dwelling in his body. One who will not have Christ cannot have God the Father manifesting Himself. One who will not have Christ cannot have forgiveness of sins, cannot have a home in Heaven, cannot have peace of heart. Christ is Immanuel, God with us. One who will not have Christ cannot have God.

How sad to have a Christmas without Christ! A day ago I was in the Loop shopping district of Chicago, and the streets were decorated with giant deer aloft on the light poles and connected with streamers of lights. Lighted Christmas trees are already gleaming in front windows of many homes. There is a rush of buying presents, wrapping packages and mailing beautiful Christmas cards. What a sad shame, what a disappointing and empty celebration is Christmas time without Christ.

Is your joy in the bright Christmas tree with its lights and toys? The Christmas tree will soon be dragged out of the house to be burned or hauled away with the garbage! The pretty wrapping paper will be torn from the packages. The carefully placed seals will be broken and discarded. Mechanical toys will break their springs, and inquisitive little girls will poke the eyes out of doll babies. The mirth of the Christmas feasting and visiting will soon be over. And, oh, how soon the loved ones will be scattered to the end of the world! Some will die, and we will never see them again. Others will forget us and leave us lonely and disillusioned. How empty is a Christmas without Christ!

Some of you have a Bible but do not have the God of the Bible.

You have the Book but do not have the Author! I do not wonder that you do not read it very much. The Book is a sealed Book. The things of God are not revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. For we are told, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). If you do not have Christ, the blessed Book of God may be to you dull and dry. It is a closed Book. There was a time when there were not many Bibles and when men chained the Bible to the pulpit so it could not be stolen. Oh, the Bible is a sealed and chained and locked Book to all whose empty hearts have not received the Author of the Book. If you do not have Immanuel, then you do not understand the Bible, and you do not have a teacher when you read it. Those who have a Christmas without a Christ, have a Bible without the Author.

In fact, if you do not have Christ, you have a world without a Creator. You do not know the riddle of the universe. It may be that your eyes are so blinded you do not even realize that God created this world and all that is in it. You cannot realize that He still administers this universe, still sustains it, and that in Christ all things are held together. If you do not have Christ, you do not realize that not a sparrow falls without His consent, that He clothes the lilies of the field, that all the hairs of your head are numbered. If you do not have Christ, then you cannot claim the promise that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." You have a world without the Creator. You have matter without the Mind behind it. Oh, if you do not have Christ, you do not have God!

And, dear friend, if you do not have Christ, then you have sin and no remedy, sin and no Saviour! I can well understand how, to the unconverted, Christmas time is a day of feasting and of drinking, a time of revelry and ribaldry. You cannot have the real sweetness of the Christmas carols, for Christ is the center of them. You may give your gifts, but you yourself, poor empty soul, cannot receive the things that satisfy! What do you know about Christmas joy anyway? You never heard the angel of God say, "Fear not: behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord!" Oh, wherever you are, whoever you are, you have your sin—but do you have a Saviour? Do you have cleansing for a black heart? Do you have peace for a troubled mind? Do you have a hope of eternal salvation, or do you have the fear of retribution, the certainty of punishment when your sins find you out? For all you who are sinners without a Saviour, let me say that the only remedy is to have Christ, Immanuel, God with us. For when He was born, the angel commanded, "And thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Mary made her bed on the straw in a stable, and the Baby Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, "because there was no room for them in the inn." Someone reads this today who has made no room for Jesus. And do you know why you have rejected Christ? When you rejected Christ, you rejected God. And I fear, oh, I fear that was what you intended to do. You see, when Jesus was crucified, that was the first chance the world had ever had really to show how it felt about God. Never before did men have a chance to spit in the face of God! Never before did men have a chance to drive nails in His hands and feet, to pluck out His beard, to blindfold Him and smite Him and say, "Prophesy, who is it that smote thee?" Never before did people have a chance to look on while God died as the gentle victim of murderous men! Ever since the slaying of the animals whose skins were used to make coverings for Adam and Eve, down through the line of sacrifices, down through the

death of good men and the martyrdom of saints, this old earth had soaked up much blood; but never until the dear Lord Jesus died and there flowed out from the hole in His side water mingled with blood, did this earth so cursed by sinful men ever soak up the blood of God!

You may be sure that men hated Jesus because He was God, not because He was man. You may be sure they hated Him because He was good, not because He was bad. You may be sure that men rejected Him because they did not want Him for what He is and what He was, God come in the flesh. He is Immanuel, "God with us"; and this "God with us" is the one they deliberately hated, rejected, and killed. Oh, sinner, hear me today! Do you reject Christ because He is the Christ of God? Do you reject Him because you do not want God?

This Christmas time is the best time you will ever have to receive Christ into your heart, to let Immanuel be your own Saviour, God with you! Why not today repent of your sins? Why not today turn to the Christ, the Saviour, and ask Him to come into your heart and forgive your sins and save your poor soul? Why not trust Him this moment, right now, to be your own Saviour now and forever? And the very moment that you turn your case over to Him, depend upon Him, risk Him, believe in Him, that moment He will be your own Immanuel, God with you, your Saviour, your constant companion, your eternal refuge from sin, your High Priest before God, your salvation!

If you will take this Christ as your own Saviour, then do it now, this day, this very hour! Let this be one Christmas time that you will have the Christ of Christmas; that you will have not only the Bible, but the one who wrote it; that you will have not only some of the good things of the world, but the one who made the world! Oh, let this be one Christmas time that you will have peace and forgiveness and salvation and redemption and a home in Heaven and a new heart! If you will take Christ as your Saviour, then here and now, this moment, close your eyes and honestly tell God so. Admit to Him that you are a sinner, earnestly ask Him to forgive you, and depend upon Him to do it this moment. Christ paid for your sins on the cross. He loves you. He is ready to receive you. And He has promised, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Then trust Him today!

(From the book, I LOVE CHRISTMAS. \$2. Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.)

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